

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Bill Cosponsored by Rep. Floren To Prevent Gift Cards from Expiring Gains Final Legislative Approval



The state House of Representatives today gave final legislative approval to a bill (Senate Bill 123) cosponsored by state Representative Livvy R. Floren that would prohibit the sale of gift certificates that are subject to expiration dates.

“Not everyone who receives a gift certificate as a holiday or birthday present runs out and redeems it immediately,” said Representative Floren, R-149th District. “Many people set them aside with the idea of using them when the store that issued the card has something in stock that they really want. I gave one to a friend of mine several years ago who held onto it for five years and was told it had expired when she tried to redeem it.”

“It seemed unfair to both of us. I purchased it in good faith expecting that the store would honor it whenever it was presented for redemption. This legislation will ensure that stores that sell gift certificates keep their end of the bargain – even if its gift cards are used several years after the original date of purchase,” Representative Floren said.

The legislation, which was approved by the state Senate May 26th, was sent to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.

Under current law, a gift card is presumed abandoned if it is not used within three years. If the owner fails to redeem it within three years, its value is transferred to the state treasury.